

January 12, 1950.

Dear Englesberg:

I have written the additional letters you requested, and asked the Dean of the Graduate School to add his endorsement to verify your acceptability as a post-doctoral fellow. I am very much surprised that my own letter was not adequate.

We will have to work out the details later, but simply as a basis for requesting the fellowship, some title for your project is desirable. In view of the kind of facilities that we have, I would prefer not to encourage you to continue your biochemical investigations while you are here. Rather, I would suggest that your work on spontaneous mutation introduces an exceedingly important problem, in particular whether the connection between mutation and growth is both general and real. For such work, *E. coli* would be a preferable organism, I think, and what I have in mind is an exploration of the conditions of spontaneous mutation (e.g., temperature, growth rate, C and N turnover independent of growth, and so forth). In addition, we have some very promising material for studying the closely related problem of phenotypic lag. Just as a working basis, therefore, I would suggest that you put down merely "Spontaneous mutation in bacteria", with special reference to cultural conditions, as a project title if called for.

With best regards to Rog,

Sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg